

Good Morning,

My name is Sylvia Cooper, and I am the Parent Leadership Training Coordinator for New Haven, CT. I've worked for Christian Community Action for several years. It was our first time hosting the PLTI session since it left New Haven for about six years.

Needless to say, I cannot express enough the success of this program. Parents and other adults and their children received a wealth of information regarding advocacy and community involvement. Since the programs graduation this past summer several parents have taken active roles in their community including running as an independent candidate in the 2009 mayoral election. The PLTI graduate did this with no financial funding and made up 20% of the votes.

The children class made a community quilt that comprised of quotes about being heroes in their community and quotes of their impression of their parent's community involvement. As a single mother of six children (two who have disabilities), I cannot begin to express my concern for funding for the Parent Trust Fund. It is so much needed in these days and times especially when there is so little hope left in our communities.

Please vote to save this funding and to save our families and their communities!

Sylvia Cooper